

PRELIMINARY SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMITTEES

(updated March 3, 2021)

IDEA PRESENTED	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
CHARTER REVIEW PROCESS - Preamble, nuts & bolts	Bob O'Connell, leader robo@sanjuanico.com
Consider how the ' Preamble ' to the Charter could be written more as a 'vision statement' for how we see our County in 10 years and beyond, and how the Charter can be used to help the Local Government and the population of the County achieve that vision. current Preamble is not inspiring; how would we like the Charter to work for us over the next 10 years?	Bill Appel, Kyle Davies, Patty Garcia, Liz Lafferty
The Preamble to the County Charter should be expanded. *By identifying the activities, goals, and objectives of the SJC government residents will be stating what they believe in and what they want their county government to pursue. What do we want our gov't to look like? Pull language from Earth Charter?	
Preambles are aspirational; they can help with interpretation but aren't substantive. We need to get to the substantive work first.	
Preamble/Bill of Rights/Vision Statement	
Philosophy and purpose of the Charter	
Undertake a thorough review of what has not been working well for our County Government since the last Review, and ensure that representative voices of women, men, youth (girls / boys), the elderly (women / men), people of color, minority groups, the marginalized voices in our society, and other people of diverse backgrounds are heard when presentations are put forward to the CRC. Also to be consulted should be the business community across the County. (DDehlendorf-this is a means to an end)	
Uphold the proposed changes and amendments made by the voters to the Charter under the last CRC unless sufficient evidence is given the that there are weaknesses that have emerged from such amendments. If such evidence is put forward, that it be heard and discussed.	
Can we conceive of ways in which the State Government might attempt to intervene in our local governance - should we have safeguards in place for this? [2/3/21-Randy Gaylord clarified that the State cannot intervene]	
Bring in expertise and experience from outside our County to share experiences and lessons in creative ways Home Rule Charter counties and their local governments, in WA and beyond, are flexing to adapt to a rapidly changing world in order to serve their communities in a sustainable, responsible, and representative way.	
Institute ways to ground review process in lessons from past years	
Should the charter be more specific about what kinds of support the county must provide to the CRC ? Develop language in Section 9.22 to fill out the resources needed by the CRC to carry out their duties and functions	
Ensure Charter contains commonly held values and priorities	
The suggestions are all valid in their way, but sometimes things need not be included in the charter document that could be acted upon by the elected Council instead and a vote of the people, like the GMO restriction.	
ELECTED vs APPOINTED	Maureen See, Leader maureens@sanjuanico.com
Consider Election vs. appointment of the current elected officials. Cost analysis required.	David Dehlendorf, Paul Dossett, Tony Ghazel, Dick Grout, Bob O'Connell
Appointed positions allow for greater pool of qualified people, Add clearer language regarding minimum qualifications for elected officials	

IDEA PRESENTED	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ELECTED vs APPOINTED continued --	
The County Health Officer should be an elected position or the distribution of power should go back to the Commissioners during a state of emergency (pandemic times) for decision making.	
Term limits for elected positions. Is this something we should consider?	
Art. 5, Sec. 5.31 Term Limits for County Council members-limit to 8 years	
Term limits can be structured to allow a candidate to sit out a term, then run in a subsequent election.	
If you resign from a county elected position, you should not be allowed to be re-elected to the position or similar position of power.	
Manager or County Executive? (would possibly change the structure of our government, depending on the powers given to the office)	
Election vs. appointment of the Manager: Many others have raised with me the need to review the County Manager position. I believe a review the county manager scope of work, authority and function and appointment vs. election could be valuable. If we review the duties of the County Manager and make any changes, we will need to review the duties of the county council as their function will likely assume duties not covered by the manager.	Tony Ghazel, Leader tonyg@sanjuanico.com
ELECTIONS - residency vs. countywide, election observing	
Election of Charter Review Commission (CRC): Consider changing the election of the CRC to county wide for all candidates.	
Sections 5.20, 5.30, 5.31 - Change any reference to residency district to legislative district	David Dehlendorf, Paul Dossett, Jane Fuller, Tom Starr
Election Observing - Add a section: Elections shall be observable-from drop box pickup of ballots to counting to verification. Elections department will be open to all parties, giving information to all parties' chairperson regarding drobox pickup times, ballot box opening times, signature verification processes, ballot processing times, ballot counting times, and counting machine accuracy testing.	
INITIATIVE & REFERENDUM PROCESS	Patty Garcia, Leader pattyg@sanjuanico.com
Striking Section 6.21 of the Charter's the financial clause that limits our right of initiative . I worry that it is used by county government leaders to squelch vote's intentions for engaging and changing policy that are being neglected by elected officials. Council and managers make many decisions without the specifics of revenues being considers. It's unjust to apply this higher standard upon petitioners.	David Anderson, Anne Marie Shanks, Liz Lafferty
The CRC should enact changes to the initiative and referendum process to enable residents to successfully exercise their fundamental rights. Allow electronic signatures . Review number of signatures required.	
Gathering of signatures during the initiative process. In ARTICLE 6 - THE PUBLIC INTEREST, Section 6.22 - Initiative - Procedures (3), insert the following between the first and the second sentences: When the Prosecuting Attorney certifies that circumstances make the gathering of traditional signatures impractical (e.g.: during a pandemic), electronic signatures will suffice.	
Section 6.22, 6.41 - Change 15 percent to 10 percent	
Section 6.30 - Change 3 percent to 2 percent	
Adequately define mini initiative	
Modification of procedures during emergency periods (pandemic)	

IDEA PRESENTED	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
INITIATIVE & REFERENDUM PROCESS continued --	
Should the auditor and treasurer's depts be consolidated ? Would it be more cost effective to have one CFO and deputy than two depts?	
GOVERNANCE - County Council, boards & commissions, budget, transparency, individual islands	David Anderson, Leader davida@sanjuan.co.com
Section 2.10 - Should the number of council members be expanded to 5 or some other number? The review and interviews that Jane has proposed will help us answer this question. Even if no change is proposed, the first line of Section 2.10 needs to be amended to start with "The legislative and executive authority" instead of just "The legislative authority".	Sharon Abreu, David Anderson, Janet Brownell, David Dehlendorf, Jane Fuller, Tony Ghazel, Dick Grout, Olivia Roseberry
Strike the current Section 2.42 text and replace with: The County Council's sole connection to the operations of the district is through the County Manager. Only the County Council's approved motions in the record are binding on the County Manager. All authority and accountability for San Juan County employees is under the purview of the County Manager and not the County Council. 4.40 County Manager 4.41 Duties	
Bringing a little bit more democracy to the grass roots level. In ARTICLE 2 - THE COUNTY COUNCIL , Section 2.41 - Rules of Procedure, add the following to the end of the section: At a minimum, those rules must include the opportunity, at every County Council meeting, for any San Juan County resident who is present, to address the Council members about issues which are on the Council's docket, or about any other issue properly within the purview of the Council. Each resident speaking must be allotted a minimum of five minutes to speak. At least one member of the Council must respond orally at the time, addressing the resident's concern.	
Section 2.7(a) Enumerate what departments are under their supervision	
Emergency powers of the County Council - Limit the time period to the actual emergency, or two weeks maximum. Then Council deals with it in a Legislative manner. Re: Art. 2, Sec. 2.52	
Section 2.3. (a) May ask the voters to levy new taxes, can appropriate revenue and adopt budgets for the county.	
The relationship between the council and the manager is a bit ambiguous so to that end we should review that relationship: Sections 2.40, 2.41, 2.42, 4.10, 4.40, 4.41	
Should the county manager be required to have a deputy ? The job is too big for one person. Electeds are required to have a deputy. Why not the manager? Cost analysis required	
Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the of County Council – are they meeting citizen's expectations? Does CC do what they are supposed to do?	
Create a platform to utilize Act XI Section 16 of the State Constitution. Extending our right to create local island municipalities for their own self-governance will facilitate and inspire potentially endless benefits to our islands and county. I have inquired with some questions from MSRC and they have affirmed that this is possible.	
Each island should be incorporated and have self governance. This should not be to separate from the county, but to be a benefit to the each island and to work with the county for further future success and sustainability.	
Prioritize creation and expansion of oversight and provision of social and behavioral health services	
Copies of the budget should be online . Re: Art. 7, Sec. 7.41	

IDEA PRESENTED	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
GOVERNANCE, continued --	
Public and appropriate structure for citizens' committees : Consideration of the role of citizens' boards and committees within the county government structure - their duties, authority, appointment and scope of work. Their appointment should have a public vote with transparent and public posted policies regarding qualifications required	
Board members/committee members should have to pass a background check initially, and receive random UA's throughout their term, just like county employees.	
Should the county manager , not the auditor, prepare the budget? The manager currently oversees 60 percent of the county budget. We have had auditors (though not currently, I believe) who had very little understanding of the non-elected department budgets, which tend to be the more complex ones, but they were preparing those budgets.	
Once the contract for the SJI's Visitors Bureau (VB) ends (in two years?) – move tourism promotion away from an outside entity into a new dept. within county government. My bigger idea is to make the Director of this Department an elected official. I am not sure if the RCW covers this. Research is needed. Conflict during pandemic. Return to County w/LTAC \$? How do we want to support the environment? Elected?	
OPERATIONS - personnel, county procedures, public records	<i>Paul Dossett, Leader</i> pauld@sanjuanico.com
Section 4.10 - List the names of “such additional departments, offices and agencies as the County Council may deem necessary” as exist today, while giving the council the authority to add additional ones as needed. Missing names that come to mind include Dept. of Community Development, Health Dept., and Elections. I realize that this is a housekeeping item, but readers of the charter have reason to expect a list of all departments, not just a reference to other additional departments. Also, do we want to leave the charter as is that gives the council authority to determine which departments report to it and which report directly to the county manager?	Patty Garcia, Olivia Roseberry, Maureen See
The charter says the council has the authority to create a personnel system but it doesn't define what that is or elaborate. Add language to Personnel Manual reinforcing that all depts are bound by the same rules, one county, one personnel manual	
Add language to Personnel Manual reinforcing diversity, anti-bullying, respect	
Evaluate departmental/employee satisfaction of current chain of command/protection from executive pressure(s)	
Create an Ombudsman position (either elected or appointed by statute) to audit of FTE/workloads of every department every 4 years and serve as an avenue for complaint mediation. Public advocate (http://www.seattle.gov/ombud)	
County ombudsman (ombudsperson) office and position should be created. They would be a guide to anyone that calls in with questions of how to get help or answers. They would be the networker for the county of where they connect residents to the department/person that they need.	
Evaluate, and potentially expand, employee evaluation/satisfaction process for County Manager	
Making records available to public & without fee	
Transparency in Public Records	

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<p>OPERATIONS, continued --</p> <p>Records should be available to the public. I worked in two county depts where I scanned hundreds of documents for public search. Software was purchased for both depts, no completion of either project docs? occurred. How much did the county spend and what happened the scanned</p> <p>Provision of Public Records- The County should be more prompt in furnishing information and records. Add the word "prompt" where applicable in Section 10.50-Information Management - - "shall maintain a means to store and maintain, in a <u>PROMPT</u> retrievable manner," etc.</p> <p>Our county should have a data base that is accessible to the public for free via the county web site. Transparency should be the goal. Residents do not trust "the county". Re-establishment of trust in elected officials and our government should be a top priority.</p>	
CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT	<i>Anne Marie Shanks, Leader</i> annemaries@sanjuanico.com
<p>The Charter Review Commission (CRC) should create an Office of Climate Policy with an independently elected full-time San Juan County Climate Commissioner. *As head of this new small office the independently elected will have the authority and influence to advance a powerful climate agenda for the SJ Islands.</p>	Sharon Abreu, Kyle Davies, Dick Grout, Liz Lafferty, Bob O'Connell, Kevin Ranker, Tom Starr
<p>Is the Charter and the current structure of the Local Government going to be able to serve our County effectively in the next decade (2021 - 30, in line with the UN Agenda 2030 and the Global Sustainable Development Goals) to enable our local government to manage the following challenges and realities we face: a. The impacts of climate change on our County in terms of economic, environmental and human / animal welfare (including issues of affordable housing, employment, and the negative impacts on our local habitat due to climates changes). Any revisions to the Charter need to look 10 years ahead and beyond, and have the best interests of 'all' in our County. Remarkable, and as yet unknown changes will occur in this County, our State, the Country and the globe over the next 10 years at an unthinkable pace, and there will be significant implications for the population of this County. b. Consider the alignment that may be necessary for this Charter to have with the 'evergreen' multi-year Comprehensive Plan of the County and the Economic Development Plan.</p>	
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<p>A resilience officer (Elected? Appointed?)* with specified powers whose input is developed through community councils whose jurisdiction is determined by watershed or relevant biological/ecological distinctions sufficient to comply with "consistency" requirements of the GMA. *https://www.utilitydive.com/news/honolulu-resilience-officer-outlines-path-to-carbon-neutrality/593772/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202021-01-22%20Utility%20Dive%20Newsletter%20%5Bissue:32035%5D&utm_term=Utility%20Dive. The website for the Honolulu Office of Resilience is: https://resilientoahu.org/</p>	
JUSTICE & EQUITY	<i>Jane Fuller, Leader</i> janef@sanjuanico.com
<p>Creation of an independent citizen's law and justice oversight committee</p>	Sharon Abreu, Kyle Davies, Kevin Ranker
<p>Is the Charter and the current structure of the Local Government going to be able to serve our County effectively in terms of having respect for the equal and equitable rights of all regardless of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic class, ability, etc.?</p>	

IDEA PRESENTED	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
JUSTICE & EQUITY continued --	
Deepen/Broaden incorporation of indigenous native values , perspectives, problem solving in County structure	
Expand recruitment of/inclusion of regional native individuals in government elected, appointed office and civil service	
Entertain development of a County-level Consular office for Foreign (Canadian) and Native (Tribal) Affairs	
Proactively incentivize younger and multicultural populations into local Government elected/appointed/decision-making positions	